

Educational Interpreter Interagency Consortium (EIIC)

Talking Points

Idaho Educational Interpreter Act - SB 1316

- Approximately 90% of Idaho's deaf and hard of hearing students are mainstreamed.
- Idaho has no law to guarantee any level of skill among K-12 interpreters.
- The Educational Interpreter Inter-agency Consortium found that 62% of Idaho's K-12 interpreters who took the national assessment could not interpret 60% of the information. The relationship between the test score and the amount of information interpreted originate from the estimates of the scientist who developed the test.
- Stakeholders are deeply concerned about the lack of equal communication access for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in the classroom.
- The proposed law will require that K-12 interpreters pass a competency test. There is a grace period / emergency authorization for K-12 interpreters to meet the minimum standard. Conservative continuing education hours through home-study, workshops, or coursework is required.
- This legislation does not seek a separate financial appropriation because the State is already spending money on training.
- Minimum standards set into law will motivate underperforming interpreters to participate in training opportunities to increase their skills – many of which come at no, or a nominal, cost to interpreters.
- This new law will lead to equal communication access for deaf and hard of hearing students and allow them to receive a free and appropriate public education so they are not “left behind.”

Contact Persons:

Senator Michael Jorgenson
(208) 332-1391
mnjorgen@senate.idaho.gov

Jo Ann Shopbell
(208) 934-4457
joann.shopbell@isdb.idaho.gov

Representative Donna Pence
(208) 332-1203
dpence@house.idaho.gov

Wes Maynard
(208) 334-0879
maynardw@dhw.idaho.gov